



Docket No. 70669

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Qi et al.

Application No.: 09/976,674

Filed: October 12, 2001

Title: **NOVEL SERINE  
PROTEASE GENES  
RELATED TO DPPIV**

Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Walicka, Malgorzata A.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

1/15/04 Tanya C. Aure  
Date Tanya C. Aure

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 16, 2003, to which the shortened statutory period for response that was set is being extended to now expire on January 16, 2004, Applicant requests that the above-identified application be amended in order to present the claims set forth hereinafter.